

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 NASA-01 OES-07 NRC-05 PM-05  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01  
L-03 H-01 /080 W  
-----125910 270209Z /20

R 261310Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2709  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USNATO  
USCINCEUR  
CINCUSAREUR  
USNMR SHAPE

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USCINCEUR, CINCUSAREUR AND USNMR SHAPE FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MNUC, MPOL, NL  
SUBJECT: GON OPTS FOR NUCLEAR VERSION OF LANCE

1. IN LETTER TO SECOND CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT, DUTCH DEFENSE MINISTER SCHOLTEN ON MAY 22 ANNOUNCED CABINET DECISION TO EQUIP NEW LANCE SYSTEM NOT ONLY FOR CONVENTIONAL BUT ALSO FOR NUCLEAR TASKS. (LANCE, WHICH WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL MARCH 1, 1979, WILL REPLACE HONEST JOHN WHICH WILL BE DEACTIVATED SEPTEMBER 1, 1978.)

2. IN HIS LETTER SCHOLTEN DECLARES THAT THE STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT WAR, REQUIRES A VARIETY OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS, INCLUDING TACNUCS. HE EXPRESSES  
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VIEW THAT EACH ARMY CORPS IN THE CENTRAL SECTOR SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND CONCLUDES THAT NETHERLANDS ARMY CORPS SHOULD NOT BE WEAKENED BY BEING DEPRIVED OF TACNUC CAPABILITY. IN HIS LETTER SCHOLTEN ALSO ARGUES THAT DECISION TO MAKE LANCE NUCLEAR DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH GON OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING THE ROLE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. A UNILATERAL DECISION TO DO SO WOULD, ACCORDING TO SCHOLTEN,

MERELY TRANSFER THIS BURDEN TO OTHER NATO ALLIES. THIS IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE. SCHOLTEN OBSERVES IN PASSING THAT SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION WOULD, IN ANY CASE, NOT PUT NETHERLANDS ANY CLOSER TO THE OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3. GOVERNMENT POSITION WAS UPHELD BY NARROW BUT PREDICTABLE MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE REQUESTED BY FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER STEMERDINK. THOUGH THERE ARE MANY IN GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT WHO ARE UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT ACQUIRING NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEM, NEED FOR IT IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED.

BROWN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY EQUIPMENT, NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978THEHA02910  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** GON OPTS FOR NUCLEAR VERSION OF LANCE  
**TAGS:** MNUC, MPOL, NL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c97f3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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